

VZCZCXRO2405

PP RUEHDT RUEHKN RUEHKR RUEHMJ RUEHPB

DE RUEHBY #1622 3130529

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 090529Z NOV 07

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8533

INFO RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 4694

RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 2987

RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY 2865

RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 0581

RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 1603

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8827

RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI 0155

RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 1648

RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 5113

RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY KOLONIA 0056

RUEHKR/AMEMBASSY KOROR 0028

RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 2366

RUEHMJ/AMEMBASSY MAJURO 0172

RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 7206

RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0344

RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 1800

RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 2520

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9311

RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 1339

RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA 1399

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2829

RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 1503

RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 5141

UNCLAS CANBERRA 001622

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KPAO MARR MAS PREL AS

SUBJECT: COMMEMORATING THE GREAT WHITE FLEET

CIRCUMNAVIGATION

REF: STATE 152754

Mission Australia enthusiastically welcomes the prospect of a U.S. Navy visit to commemorate the voyage of the Great White Fleet. We propose that ships visit all three ports that were involved in the 1908 visit ) Sydney, Melbourne, and Albany. The Great White Fleet,s visit marked the beginning of bilateral strategic engagement, and Mission and GOA agencies (including the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian National Maritime Museum, and DFAT) are actively engaged in designing a program of activities to highlight the longevity of cooperation between our two countries, the benefits of the post-WWII treaty alliance, and the advantages of continuing close collaboration in humanitarian as well as security activities. Proposed anniversary activities include a symposium, a special exhibition in Sydney and a traveling exhibit for museums in Melbourne and Western Australia, a commemorative book, programs for school children, a gala ball, shipboard receptions, joint events with Royal Australian Navy vessels, activities ashore to replicate parts of the original Fleet,s program, community relations activities, oral histories from descendants, and the like. We anticipate enormous interest in the commemoration among the Australian public and predict that the commemoration will be one of our most successful public diplomacy activities ever undertaken in Australia. We wish to thank the U.S. Navy and the Departments of Defense and State for their support for this very important undertaking.